John Ackerson, "Holding Ground", 3 Burnham Place, Fair Lawn, New Jersey, U.S.A.

9 March, 1958

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois,
Care "National Guardian,"
197 East 4th St.,
New York 9, N. Y.

Dear Dr. DuBois:

With regret, we could not attend on 2 March, at the Hotel Roosevelt, and we - my wife, grandchild and myself - would like to pay our respects to you, in person, for a few minutes, at your convenience.

I work from 4 P.M. to 12 midnight, five days a week, and so could come only on a Saturday or Sunday. But if we would put you out, say so, and we'll understand.

My wife and I esteem you as our first citizen, and we hold dear what you hold dear - your writings and utterances, per "National Guardian," strike a responsive chord.

I might say I was out in front in two World Wars, and am aroused that the good life which was promised, and which might have been, has not materialized, because of foolish and vicious men.

Including next Sunday, 16 March, we are free, and could drop in for a few moments any Saturday or Sunday, except Saturday, 15 March.

I would like my grandchild, a good-hearted, sensitive and intelligent girl of 8½, to have a memory of you. I took her mother in to meet Henri Barbusse, the greatest and finest human being I have met or seen, and her

mother hasn't forgotten his inspiration or his courtesy to a child and his interest in her.

But, dear Dr. DuBois, to repeat, don't permit us to inconvenience you. Tell us, and we'll understand and like and admire you just the same as before.

With every good wish, and with my respects to you and to Mrs. DuBois, I am,

Sincerely yours,

J. Weldon Johnson

42-54-14

June 4, 1958

Mr. John Ackerson
"Holding Ground"
3 Burnham Place
Fair Lawn, N.J.

My dear Mr. Ackerson:

Since the date of your letter in March, I have been out of town most of the time, lecturing in the West and South, and celebrating my birthday.

I think during the summer, we could easily arrange to have you call on Saturday or Sunday. I should be glad to see you and your wife and your grandchild.

Our phone No. is Ma 4 2929.

Very sincerely yours,

WEBDB:RR

30 November, 1958

Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois,
31 Grace Court,
Brooklyn 1, New York

39-10-157

Dear Dr. Du Bois:

That was kind of you, in yours of 4 June, to invite us to call, but we concluded we would be barging in. I am reminded of what Masefield said (in substance): "When two men meet, if they don't have something to exchange, it is better that they never met." I could take much from you, that is for sure, but what I could give in return is questionable.

I was exhilarated to see in "National Guardian" your speech being delivered at Charles University in Prague, at the bestowal of a degree upon you, and I was ashamed, too, that no university in our own country has seen fit to do likewise.

Health and long life to you, Dr. Du Bois, and to Mrs. Du Bois, from the three of us, John and Katharine Ackerson and our grandchild, Nancy Katharine Kowalchuk. And Holiday Greetings!

Your sincere admirer,

John Ackerson

W. E. B. Du BOIS
81 Grace Court
Brooklyn 1, N. Y.

March 6, 1958

Advance Printing Co., Inc.
635 West 54 Street
New York City 19

Gentlemen:

I want some letter paper printed or engraved. I am enclosing samples, but I should like paper better than this and either blue or gray. I have indicated the lettering on both paper and envelopes. Will you kindly send me at your earliest convenience specimens of paper and printing, with prices.

Very sincerely yours,

WEBD/el

W. E. B. Du BOIS

42/3127

Advance Publishing Company

INCORPORATED

GREAT BARRINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

FICTION • BIOGRAPHY • JUVENILE BOOKS • TEXT BOOKS

March 11, 1958

4/2-5A-75

The Dubois Fund,
100 West 23rd Street,
New York City, New York,

Dear Sir,

It has come to our attention that W.E.B. Dubois has for publication two books entitled THE BLACK FLAME, a history of the Negro.

We are very interested in adding some titles on The Negro to our list and would like to consider them for publication.

We would appreciate having you bring this to his attention.

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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N. S. BROWN,
Gen Mgr

NSB/me

AFRO ARTS CULTURAL CENTER

15 WEST 126th STREET, N. Y. C.

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Executive Director
MR. ISAIAH BLY
Bus. Mgr. & Secretary

MISS VIRGINIA McDONALD
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P. O. BOX 56, LINCOLNTON STATION 37, N. Y.

FOundation 8-6804 LEhigh 4-2729

42-5A-193

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Children's Speech and Theatre School

Director

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EMMA ROBERTSON

May 19, 1958

W.E.B. DuBois
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Afro Arts Theatre a Cultural Organization dedicated to principals of bringing about cultural relationship and inter-cultural relationship between peoples of African ancestry throughout the world has founded New York City's first Cultural Center. Within the Center the first Afro-American Museum has been established including the starting of a library.

Afro Arts Theatre would be extremely pleased were you to allow Mr. Simon Bly, Jr. to discuss with you possibilities of your contributing materials to our museum, library and gallery.

Thank you:

AFRO ARTS THEATRE

Simon Bly, Jr.
Executive Director

[Afro Arts Cultural Center]

461-45-04

June 30, 1958

Mr. Simon Bly, Jr.
Executive Director
15 West 126th St.
New York City, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Bly:

Last May you asked for permission to talk with me concerning your Arts Theatre. I have been too busy to respond till now. If you will telephone me at MAINE 4 2929, some time in the next week or so, I should be glad to make an appointment.

Very sincerely yours,

WEBDB:RR

AFRO ARTS CULTURAL CENTER

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OLA McDONALD
EMMA ROBERTSON

July 6, 1958

Dear Sir:

Afro Arts Theatre presents on Thursday afternoon the official opening of Upper Manhattanis Summer Festival '58 Cultural Season.

The Hon. Hulan E. Jack will officiate and we would be pleased to have you as one of our honored guests.on that ocassion.

The '58 Cultural Season Ceromony will take place at Colonial Park Amphitheatre, 148th street and Bradhurst Avenue, one block west of 8th Avenue.

Thank you:

AFRO ARTS CULTURAL CENTER

Simon Bly, Jr.
Executive Director

W.E. Burghardt DuBois
Shirley Graham
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn 1, N.Y.

SUMMER FESTIVAL '58 OPENS JULY 10, 1958, 5PM.

Compliments of
Afro Arts Cultural Center
15 West 126th Street, N. Y. C.

42-5a/88

"GHANA FESTIVAL WEEK"

AFRO ARTS THEATRE IN ITS CONTINUING DRIVE TO PLACE ON THE CULTURAL SUMMIT IN AMERICA THE AFRO-AMERICAN CULTURAL RENAISSANCE, SALUTES THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF GHANA'S INDEPENDENCE. FROM THEIR HEADQUARTERS, AFRO ARTS CULTURAL CENTER, 15 WEST 126TH STREET, AFRO ARTS THEATRE IS MAKING PLANS FOR THE COMING VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER KWAME NKRUMAH TO NEW YORK CITY ON JULY 23RD. PLANS ARE THAT AFRO ARTS THEATRE'S THIRD ANNUAL "SUMMER FESTIVAL" PROGRAM OF CONCERTS, RECITALS, LECTURES, MOVIES, ART AND SCULPTURE EXHIBITS WILL INCLUDE "GHANA FESTIVAL WEEK". GHANA FESTIVAL WEEK WILL BE FROM JULY 20TH THROUGH JULY 31ST AT COLONIAL PARK AMPHITHEATRE, 148TH STREET AND BRADHURST AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY. MISS JOYCE WHITE AGE FIVE, HAS BEEN SELECTED MISS GHANA-AMERICAN OF 1958 AND WILL REIGN AS "GHANA FESTIVAL WEEK" PRINCESS. DURING THIS PERIOD, A SPECIAL PROGRAM OF ARTS AND CRAFTS FROM GHANA, SPEAKERS, CONCERTS AND GHANA'S INDEPENDENT CELEBRATION FILM ARE BEING PLANNED.

IN THE BEHALF OF AFRO-AMERICA THIS CULTURAL ORGANIZATION IS ARRANGING FOR MR. LANGSTON HUGHES, RENOWN INTERNATIONAL POET - MISS NORMA MORGAN, OUTSTANDING ARTIST - MISS STELLA WRIGHT, SCULPTRES - MRS. LILLIAN FORD, PAINTER - Mr. ROBERT HILL 3RD, MUSICIAN - MR. WILLIAM SPRINGER, ARTIST AND OTHERS TO CREAT ARTISTIC MOMENTOES THAT WILL BE PRESENTED TO DR. KWAME NKRUMAH IN HONOR OF GHANA'S 1ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE WINNING OF THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM.

GROSS W. ALEXANDER
P. O. BOX 304
LUCERNE VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

April 5, 1958

RETIRED MINISTER
THE METHODIST CHURCH

$1 Ouch

Personal

Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois,
National Association for Advancement of Colored People,
New York City, N. Y.

My dear Sir and Brother:

I am writing an article on the churches and world order and turn to you for aid, in connection with one certain historic event.

But first, I would like to pay my sincere respects to you and congratulate you on your recent birthday and thank you on behalf of this country and the world for the invaluable services you have rendered to the Cause of humanity.

42-5-B-43

I have heard a story of a man, whose name, I believe, was John Hawkins. He brought the first boat-load of slaves from Africa to North America. The name of his boat was "The Jesus," and he did so well that he got other boats and named them "The Grace of God," and "The Angel." While the Negroes were in the lower holds of the ship, John Hawkins was in sweet communion with God, elsewhere.

It is my desire to make maximum use of this story as illustrative of the unethical, immoral, anti-Christian practices of the church and organized religion. But I must confirm the story if it is to be used to advantage. I do not know that it is true. I have gone to the public libraries, in vain. Nobody appears interested to help me get the facts: as to the man, his name, the name of the boats, et cetera, et cetera. Hence this letter to you.

If you would be so wonderfully gracious and cooperative as to loan me a monograph, or a book, giving the actual data, I promise to return it in good order, promptly, and to make the most of the story! Very sincerely and appreciatively, your debtor,

Gross W. Alexander,
minister.

P.S. If you know where I can obtain a book or pamphlet on John Foster Dulles, giving the documented story of his career, please mention it. Enclosed is $1.20 in currency for postage and handling

April 24, 1948

Mr. Cross W. Alexander
P.O.Box 504
Lucerne Valley, Cal.

My dear Mr. Alexander:

Answering your letter of April 5th, may I say that you will find an account of Sir John Hawkins on pages 50 to 51, of my book "The World in Africa," published by the Viking Press, N.Y. 1947. Other accounts may be found in the Encyclopedia Brittannica.

Very sincerely yours,

WEBDB:RM

42-5B-40

230 Riverside Drive
New York 25, N. Y.
May 28, 1958

Dr. W. E. B. du Bois
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Dr. du Bois:

I am glad to send you the attached check for $50.00, which represents the scond half of the sum of $100.00 it was agreed would be paid for your contribution to the book, "Toward A Socialist America".

At long last, it has been possible to set a firm publication date for the book--that is, April 15. Copies of the book will be mailed to each author this next week.

I also enclose several announcements of the book we are mailing out to some thousands of individuals and organizations.

With kind regards and thanking you further for your collaboration, I am

Sincerely yours,

Helen Alfred

Helen Alfred

42-5A-17

June 4, 1958

Miss Helen Alfred
230 Riverside Drive
New York 25, N.Y.

My dear Miss Alfred:

I have been away so much, lecturing and celebrating my birthday, that I am afraid I have never acknowledged your check of May 22nd, or congratulated you upon the appearance of your book - "Toward A Socialist America."

I hope it will have ~~some~~ success.

Very sincerely yours,

WEBDB:RR

"THE SEPARATE."
MILLBROOK, DUTCHESS COUNTY,
NEW YORK
MARCH 26, 1958

12-SA-120

Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois,
31 Grace Ct.,
Brooklyn 2, New York

Dear Sir,

As a free-lance writer I have been doing some research on the late George Washington Cable in hopes of being able to put the material together and sell it to a magazine. The article's purpose is to show his contribution toward the solution of the racial problem. In various reference books I find mention that you and Booker T. Washington knew Cable personally and, in fact, were invited to visit him at his home in Northampton.

None of these sources describe your visit, how you knew Cable, how you came to be invited to be his guests, just what the hospitality offered you was, what you discussed, what you did, how long you stayed, and so on. They do say that both you and Mr. Washington

suffered from racial discrimination in Northampton when you went to see Cable and that local people made it unpleasant for him for awhile as a result of his invitation.

I wonder if you would be good enough to write me a brief account of this visit as you remember it and any other recollections you may have of your association with G.W. Cable.

I think it is important that these things be recorded in as much detail as possible and, so far as I can discover, they never have been.

Sincerely,

Wallace B. Alig

WALLACE B. ALIG

42-5A-123

April 24, 1958

Mr. Wallace B. Alig
"The Separate"
Millbrook, Dutchess County
New York

My dear Mr. Alig:

While I know of George W. Cable and his career, and had some correspondence with him, I think you must be mistaken as to my ever visiting him. I have no recollection of such a visit and I am sure I would not have forgotten it because I always held Bable in high esteem.

N. Hampton is not far from my birthplace at Great Barrington.

Probably Mr. Washington did visit him, and it is this visit to which you refer.

I am sorry not to be of more help.

Very sincerely yours,

WEBDB:RM

42-5A-12 1

"THE SEPARATE,"
MILLBROOK, DUTCHESS COUNTY,
NEW YORK
APRIL 26, 1958

Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois,
Lower Duplex,
31 Grace Court,
Brooklyn 1, New York

Dear Dr. Du Bois,

Thank you for your letter of the twenty-fourth. It represents a valuable correction to the propagation of an error.

I note with interest your mention of correspondence with George Washington Cable. I wonder what it was about. Of course, I realize that it may be confidential or of a personal nature so that you would not care to reveal its contents. But if not, I would like to know about it if you would be good enough to write it down for me. Perhaps you still have the original letters. In this

42-SA-12

way new facets of Cable's life may be revealed or fuller information about established facts.

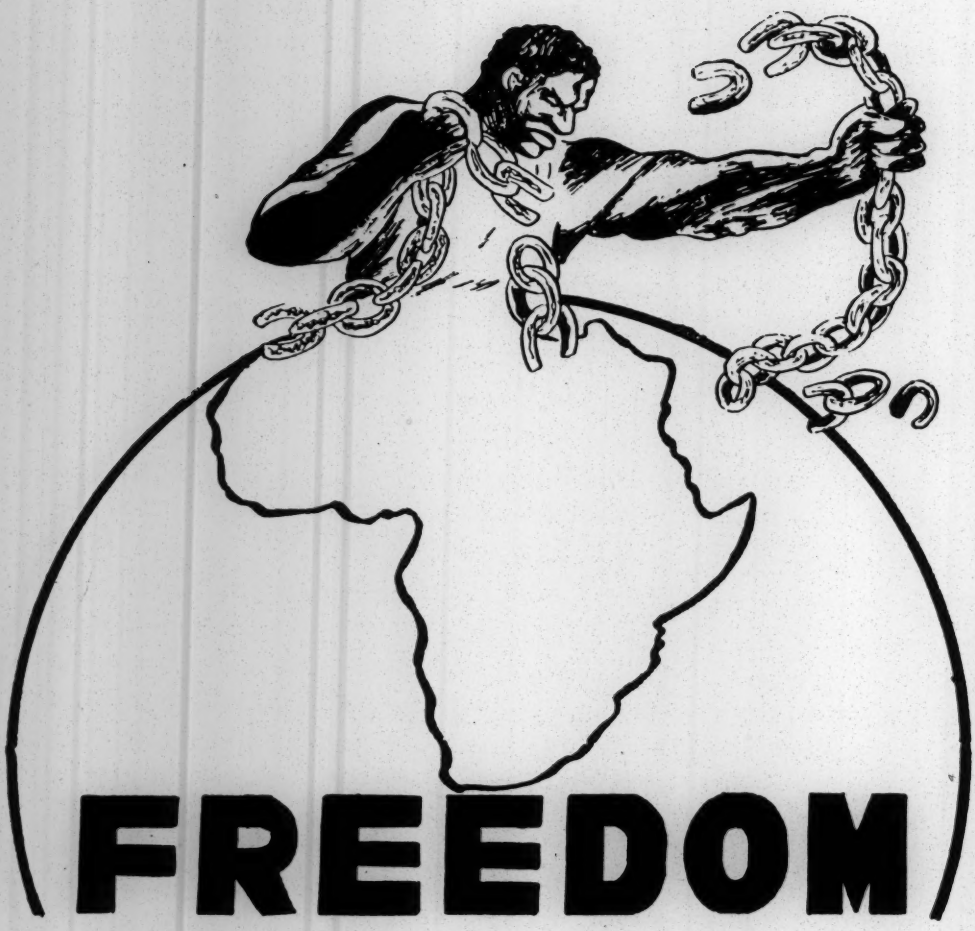
I should be happy to credit you as the source, if you so desire, should I use the information in my proposed article. Or if you do not wish to be mentioned, just say so and I will follow out your instructions. Maybe you might merely wish to make the information available to me on the understanding that I would not publish it at all in which case I would also be pleased to comply.

I gather also that you and Cable never met personally anywhere but I wonder if you would confirm this.

Sincerely,

Wallace B. Alig

WALLACE B. ALIG



FREEDOM

Address all enquiries to:

The Secretary-General

All African People's Conference

P. O. Box 921

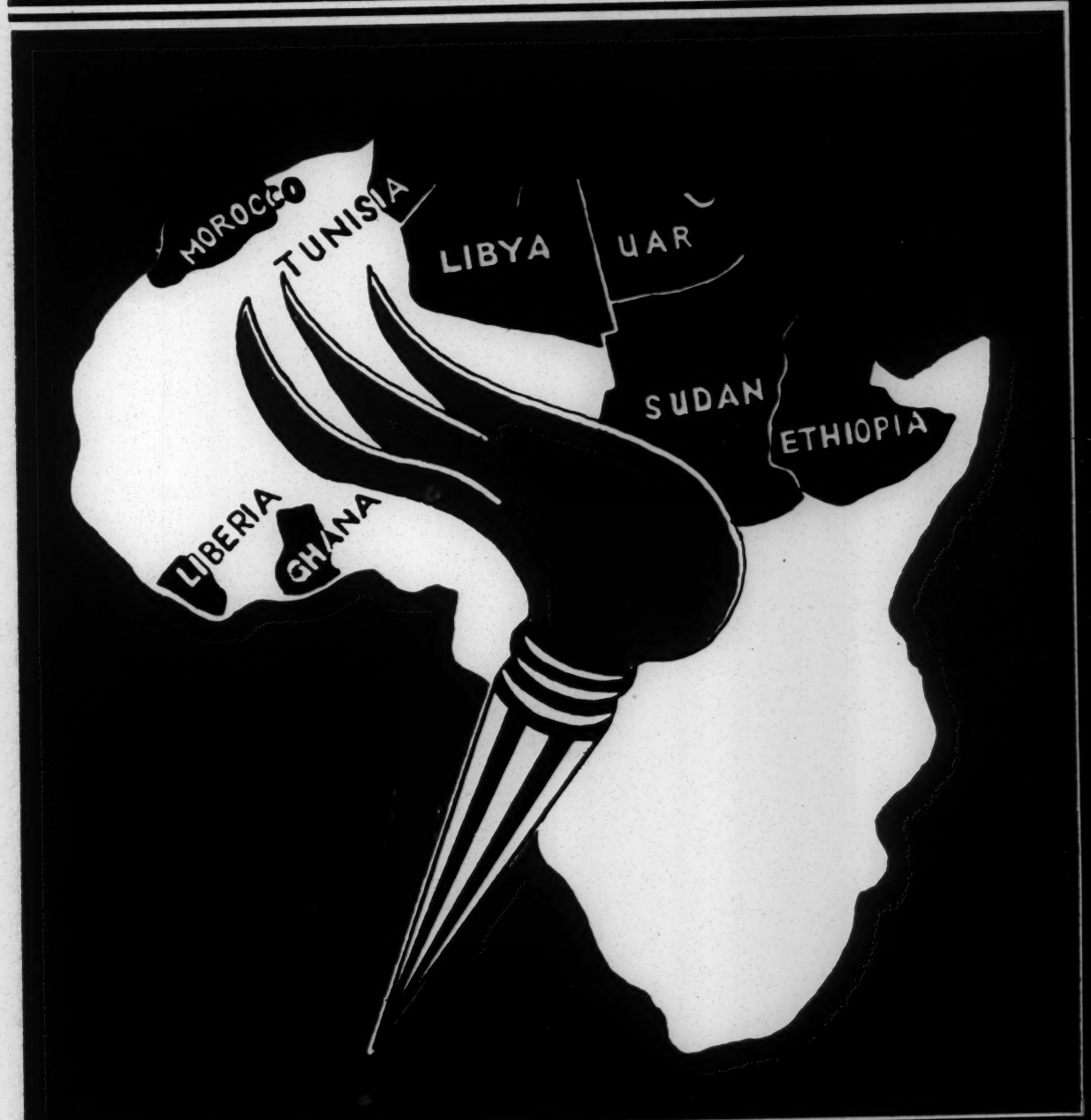
Accra, Ghana.

West Africa.

Printed by Guinea Press Limited, Ring Road West Accra.

[1958]

ALL AFRICAN PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE



FORWARD TO INDEPENDENCE NOW!

ALL AFRICAN PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE

A CALL TO INDEPENDENCE

Attention, all Africans!

Have you heard the clarion call to action?—**HANDS OFF AFRICA!**

AFRICA MUST BE FREE!

Now in order to translate this call into action and thereby enable the oppressed and exploited masses of Africa to achieve their legitimate human rights and political aspirations of self-government, independence and self-determination, we the representatives of the sponsoring organisations have taken the initiative in convening an All African People's Conference as the rallying centre of Emergent African Nationalism.

THIS CONFERENCE will take place in Accra, the capital of the new progressive State of Ghana, in December, 1958.

THIS CONFERENCE, unlike the recent Conference of Independent African States, will be on a non-governmental level and will be attended by hundreds of representatives of progressive political, nationalist, trade union, co-operative, youth, women's and other organisations of the people from every country throughout Africa committed to the struggle for complete Independence.

PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT, as well as representatives from non-African organisations which endorse the aims and objects of the Conference will also be invited as fraternal delegates and unofficial observers.

THIS CONFERENCE will be the greatest gathering of its kind ever to be brought together on African soil. It will demonstrate the solidarity and fraternity which bind the awakening peoples of Africa, cutting across race, tribe and the artificial frontiers which the imperialists have contrived in order to divide us and so maintain their evil system of Colonialism, Racial Domination and Tribal Separatism.

THIS CONFERENCE will formulate and proclaim our African Personality based on the philosophy of Fan-African Socialism as the ideology of the African Non-Violent Revolution.

HENCEFORTH OUR SLOGAN SHALL BE:

PEOPLES OF AFRICA, UNITE! YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT YOUR CHAINS! YOU HAVE A CONTINENT TO REGAIN! YOU HAVE FREEDOM AND HUMAN DIGNITY TO ATTAIN!

And to the Colonialists we say!

HANDS OFF AFRICA! AFRICA MUST BE FREE!!

PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE ALL AFRICAN PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE

AIMS AND OBJECTS

The main purpose of the All African People's Conference to be held in Accra, Ghana, in December, 1958, will be to formulate concrete plans and work out the Gandhian tactics and strategy of the African Non-Violent Revolution in relation to:—

1. **Colonialism and Imperialism**
2. **Racialism and Discriminatory Laws and Practices**
3. **Tribalism and Religious Separatism**
4. **The position of Chieftaincy under:**
   (*a*) Colonial Rule
   (*b*) A Free Democratic Society

The time has come for an open exposure of, and an onslaught upon, the propagators of Tribalism, who are today the most dangerous black agents of the Imperialists, for it is their poisonous policy of inciting Africans against Africans, brothers against brothers, tribes against tribes, which constitutes the greatest obstacle to the achievement of **United Freedom Fighters Fronts,** which alone can bring about a speedy end to foreign domination.

Not until we expose and unmask the anti-patriotic role of those African political careerists whose activities only help the Imperialists to maintain their traditional policy of **"divide and rule"**—the last bulwark of Colonialism—will Africa regain her lost freedom and take her rightful place among the comity of nations on an equal footing with others.

This problem of "divide and rule" along tribal lines is an ever-pressing danger in the so-called multi-racial territories of East and Central Africa, where our uncompromising demands must be:

1. **Land to the Africans.**
2. **Equal voting rights for all, regardless of race, tribe, colour or creed.**
3. **Implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations.**

THE CONFERENCE will also examine the question of Irredentism and discuss plans for the regrouping of Independent African States on the basis of:

1. **Adjustment of existing artificial frontiers**
2. **Amalgamation or federation of territories on a regional basis.**
3. **The progressive federation or confederation of geographical regional State Groupings into an ultimate Pan-African Commonwealth of Free, Independent United States of Africa.**

39-1E-2

All African People's Conference

The Secretary-General of the Preparatory Committee

has the honour to invite

DR. W. E. DU BOIS

to take part in the

All African People's Conference

to be held in Accra from the 5th to 12th December, 1958

R.S.V.P.

Secretary-General
Post Box 921, Accra, Ghana.

THE ALL AFRICAN STUDENT UNION OF THE AMERICAS, INC.

1727 S ST., N.W.
WASHINGTON 9, D. C.

TELEPHONE: COLUMBIA 5-0605
CABLE ADDRESS: AFSTUDENTS, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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THE HON. OBAFEMI AWOLOWO
MR. E. W. MATHU

24 February 1958

Dr. W.E.B. Dubois
23 West 26th Street
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Dubois:

Greetings from African students here in the United States. We owe to you so much for the ideas, ideals, and principles which our Union has inherited from you for promoting understanding among colored peoples and between colored peoples and the rest of mankind. We shall forever (as long as man's memory remains) carry forward the great intellectual tradition which you have given to mankind.

Our organization is largely guided by the principles of Pan-Africanism which in a way were stated recently by that great admirer of yours, Mr. George Padmore in his book, Pan-Africanism or Communism. In that book, we recall, George Padmore feels exactly the way we feel towards you.

The African Student Union was founded more than five years ago in order to promote certain goals stated in our Brochure which we enclose herewith. As the years go by, and we have grown in experience, it is becoming evident that our task is not easy, though we are confident that some day the great ideas you have given us will be translated into reality. Your inspiration to us has been so great.

This is why we are writing to you not only to expresss our deepest gratitude for having laid the intellectual foundation which will continue to guide our activities, but also to ask if we could have the benefit of your addressing us.

In June we are holding our Sixth Annual Conference at the University of Chicago. Our Union represents nearly 2,000 African students in this country. All of these will be represented by delegations from our many branches in the United States and national delegates from Africa. On Friday, June 20, we

expect to have a public meeting during which we would wish no one but you to address this group of young men on the general theme of our Conference, which is, "Toward a Commonwealth of Africa" or some other topic which will highlight the Pan-African idea of our organization. This will be at about 8 P.M.

We realize how occupied you are and many other engagements which may prevent your coming. But we wish to assure you that we would be so honored by your presence and anything you have to say would be only too valuable to us.

We would appreciate hearing from you at your latest convenience.

Most respectfully yours,

E. U. Essien-Udom
Executive Secretary

EU:DB

PS: It was a great moment for me personally last spring when I introduced you at the University of Chicago to address the audience on the occasion of "Academic Freedom Week". Your speech was more than inspiring.

27-25-2

Pens	200
Hall	30
Fee	150
	₹340

W. E. B. Du BOIS
81 Grace Court
Brooklyn, 1, N. Y.

March 6, 1958

E. U. Essien-Udom
Executive Secretary
The All African Student Union
of the Americas
1727 S Street, N. W.
Washington 9, D. C.

My dear Mr. Essien-Udom:

I have your letter of February 24, and remember with pleasure meeting you at the University of Chicago. I should be glad to address your conference next June at the University of Chicago provided I am still in good health and provided you can afford the expense. Mrs. Du Bois would have to travel with me, and the round trip plane fare, hotel expenses, and my fee would amount to $400.00. I am afraid that this is more than your organization can afford, or that your directors and advisors would consent to.

I shall be glad to hear from you at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

WEBD/el

W. E. B. Du BOIS

27-25-3

THE ALL AFRICAN STUDENT UNION
OF THE AMERICAS, INC.
1727 S ST. N.W.
WASHINGTON 9, D. C.
TELEPHONE: COLUMBIA 5-0605
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27 March 1958

Dr. W.E.B. Du BOIS
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn 1, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your letter of March 6, 1958, and also for your willingness to Keynote our Conference on June 20, 1958, provided your health permits. We pray hopefully that you continue to enjoy good health for many years to come. We undertake to provide $400.00 to meet your expenses for the journey to Chicago.

May we ask that you address yourself to the subject of Pan-Africanism in any manner in which you think would provide us with your definitive as well as philosophical attitude on the subject, and how this is related to the wide problem of color vs international politics.

Most sincerely yours,

E. U. Essien-Udom
Executive Secretary

EU:DB

17-22-1

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40-54-234

April 29, 1958

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois
23 West 26th St.
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. DuBois:

We hope that this will find you in good health.

We would appreciate it if you will send us a biographical data sheet and other pertinent information about yourself. We need this information for our pre-conference press releases and for the Conference publication. In fact we would be grateful if you could also send us a photograph of yourself.

Accept our warmest regards.

Very sincerely yours,

E. U. Essien-Udom
Executive Secretary

EU:BF

May 16, 1958

4/2-54-46

Mr. E. U. Essien-Idem
Executive Secretary
The All African Student Union of the Americas, Inc.
1727 S. St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Essien-Idem:

Will you kindly be careful as to how you address my letters. I have had no office at 23 W. 26th St. for two years. I am careful to put the address above on all of my letters and yet your secretary persistently sends them wrong, which means that they are held up or lost.

I am enclosing you a short biography and a photograph. If there is any other material which you wish, kindly let me know, and also please send the letter to the right address.

Very sincerely yours,

WEBDB:RM

X

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42/58/2

Greetings from the President

THE ALL AFRICAN STUDENT UNION OF THE AMERICAS, INC. was founded in 1953 in order to:

*encourage closer cooperation among African students.

*promote better understanding between the peoples of Africa and the Americas.

*encourage African students in the Americas to develop sound leadership.

*encourage an orientation program for African students desirous of pursuing some course of studies in the Americas.

*strive to meet the needs of African students in the Americas.

During the past five years the AASUA has tried to implement these goals; and this has been possible because of the generosity of many of our friends. These friends include individuals and organizations, big and small, too numerous to mention by names here. We are deeply grateful to all of them, and do look forward to their continued support until such time that we can stand on our own.

We know that there is still a long way ahead of us, but we are confident that success will be ours. We hope you all will help us attain this great hope soon.

Welcome to The Sixth Annual Conference of the AASUA!

Sincerely,
Rashid A. Halloway

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ORDER OF EVENTS

JUNE 18, Wednesday: Exhibition, African Arts and Crafts, Reynolds Club, University of Chicago. . . 10 A.M. to 7 P.M.

Movie, "Safari To Adventure," International House, 1414 E. E. 59th St. . . 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.
day, June 21).

N. B. The Exhibition continues daily until June 22. Also a different movie will be shown each evening daily (except Saturday, 21.)

JUNE 19, Thursday: First Plenary Session of Conference, International House, 1414 E. 59th St. . . 9:30 A.M. to 5 P.M.

JUNE 20, Friday: Second Plenary Session of Conference, International House, 1414 E. 59th St. . . 9:30 A.M. to 5 P.M.
At 8 P.M. also there will be a public lecture at Mandel Hall, University of Chicago. Lecturer: Dr. Wm. E. B. DuBois

JUNE 21, Saturday: "A NIGHT OF ALL NIGHTS" Program, at Trianon Ballroom, 6201 Cottage Grove Avenue. . . 9:30 P.M. to 2 A.M.

JUNE 22, Sunday: Banquet at the First Baptist Church, 935 E. 50th St. . . 6:30 P.M. Speaker: Dr. M. Herskovits

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Supreme Liberty Life Insurance Company is happy to have this opportunity to welcome you to Chicago, to congratulate you for sacrificing to prepare yourselves for leadership in your communities and in the world. We at Supreme Liberty Life have much in common with you. We share a common African ancestry. We share the belief that understanding and cooperation will soon replace the fear and hate which put race against race and nation against nation.

We have unlimited faith in the future because of the growing number of well-trained dynamic people like you. Young men and women with drive and vision, just as you have, made Supreme Liberty Life the $19,000,000 business it is today.

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They provide leadership in their communities just as you are going to do in your communities.

Why are we so sure that your communities and the world will be much better off because of your contributions? We are sure because young people like you from all over the world, who visit our Home Office regularly and exchange views with us on various subjects always give us a richer insight into the many problems facing the human race.

That's why we feel sure that a bright future is in store for all mankind.

We hope that you too, will enrich our insight by paying us a visit.

Sincerely yours,

Earl B. Dickerson
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"Labor can do nothing without capital, capital nothing without labor, and neither labor or (sic) capital can do anything without the guiding genius of management; and management, however wise its genius may be can do nothing without the privileges which the community affords."—W. L. Mackenzie King.

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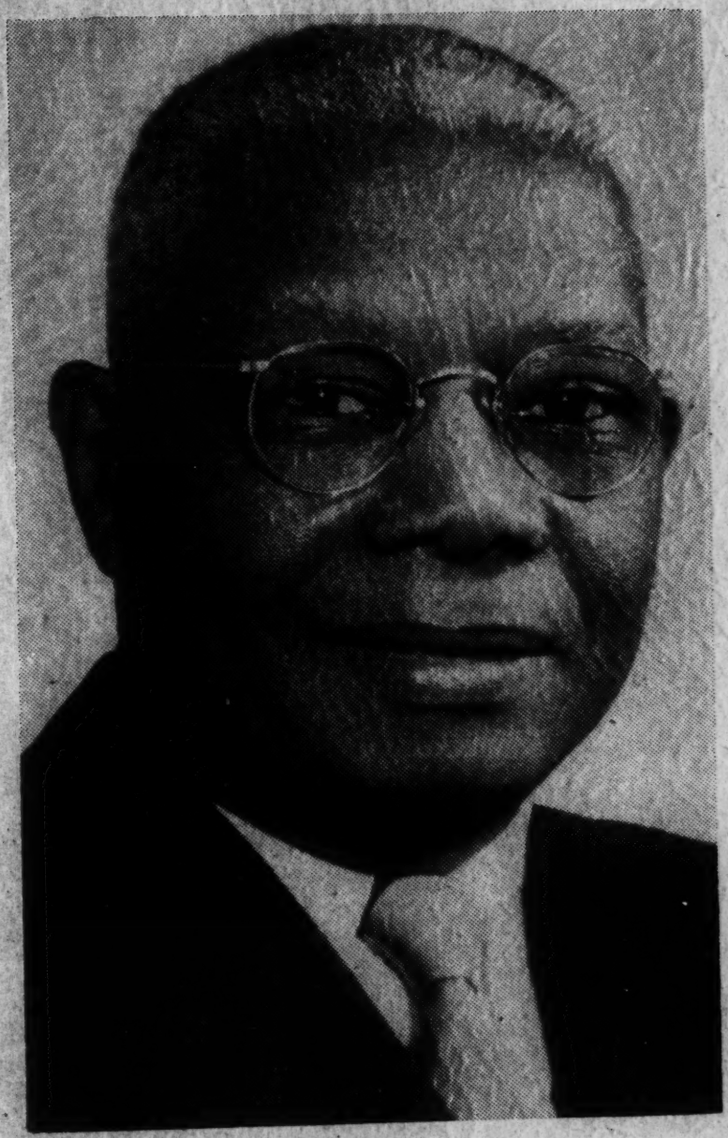

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THE AFRICAN NEWSLETTER

is published monthly by the

ALL AFRICAN STUDENT UNION OF THE AMERICAS, INC.

1727 S. Street, N.W.,

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Acknowledgments

Thanks to many African Students and many people of the Chicago community and elsewhere whose names do not appear here, but who helped in various ways to make the production of this program possible. We especially thank our advertisers, and patrons also, and highly recommend you all to patronize them.

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SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DEDICATION TO PAN-AFRICAN SOLIDARITY

WORKING PAPERS

Held at:
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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT at:
1727 S STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON 9, D. C.

JUNE 18 - 22, 1958

40/80/36

DEDICATED TO THE TORCHBEARERS OF PAN-AFRICANISM -

THE YOUTH OF AFRICA AND TO THE

HEROIC FIGHTERS FOR AFRICAN FREEDOM

"Through the troubled history of man comes
sweeping a blind fury of destruction and the
towers of civilization topple down to dust.

In the chaos of moral nihilism are trampled under
foot by marauders the best treasures of man
heroically won by the martyrs for ages.

Come, young nations, proclaim the fight for freedom,
rise up the banner of invincible faith

Build bridges with your life across the gaping earth
blasted by hatred, and march forward.

Do not submit yourself to carry the burden of insult
upon your head, kicked by terror, and dig not a
trench with falsehood and cunning to build a
shelter for your dishonored manhood; offer not
the weak as sacrifice to the strong to save yourself."

Rabindranath Tagore

INTRODUCTION

The Executive Committee after a careful examination of the major purposes of the Union decided to stress one of them during this Sixth Annual Conference. Hence the theme "Pan-African Solidarity" was chosen. It is hoped therefore, that this Conference will address itself seriously to this problem and particularly, how we as students and Africans may best contribute to this great yearning of the masses of Africans.

The reasons for this choice are many and only a few may be mentioned here. The first is the obvious fact that this is the major justification for the existence of the Union and also for convening this Conference. The second arises from the common-sense notion that "a house divided cannot stand."

Over the years, Africans are painfully realizing that their miseries and deprivations are indivisible, and hence that the struggle for freedom and the welfare of our people must be indivisible, Until today, the major portion of the misery of our people continues to be imposed from quarters outside of Africa. This is not the time to remind you of the dark forces of history, the godless and ruthless groups which have despoiled, brutalized and humiliated the peoples of Africa and others of African descent. This is not the time to call to your attention the continuous emasculation of our natural wealth for the benefit of those who least deserve or have just claims to

it. It is not enough to castigate these forces of darkness. We must also take notice of the internal forces which rendered us weak and hence an easy prey to the machinations of the foreign elements.

Must we not dedicate ourselves to a future which promises to all our peoples freedom and abundance which we may share without bitterness with the rest of mankind? Can this be achieved without a determined dedication to the principles of Pan-Africanism and to the service of our peoples? Can this be achieved without a total spiritual, intellectual and material reconstruction of Africa by Africans and for Africans? Can this be achieved by our continuing to accept the archaic imperialistic divisions of our continent into small enclaves which by themselves are altogether too weak to bring about the inevitable destiny and welfare of African people? Can we continue to accept worn-out legal notions of the "State" devised in Europe and now perpetrated in Africa, and yet hope to maximize the spiritual and material richness of a united people? These are some of the questions for which Africans must seek answers.

The purpose of the Working Papers is not to provide answers for any of these or other questions. Rather the papers attempt to outline some of the problems which the Commissions or Committees and the Sessions may wish to examine.

May our dedication to the UNITY of Africa, may our dedication to the service of Africa, and may our hope for a future with promise, guide our deliberations, so that in time, a COMMONWEALTH OF AFRICA may be established, and a Common

African Nationality and Citizenship may be ours!

E. U. Essien-Udom
Executive Secretary

4080/39

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to extend my thanks and appreciation to Mr. Mburumba Kerina for his ideas on the subjects of discussion for the Commission on Pan-African Solidarity. Mr. Skeva A. Soko's contribution to the discussion on all of the Commissions set up by the Executive Committee was highly helpful. I wish to thank many other students with whom I have exchanged views on some or all of these commissions throughout the year. Many, many thanks to African students in the United States for their encouragement which I received during the year. From all the correspondence I have in the office it seems to me that there is a great awakening and a Pan-African consciousness among our students.

I am solely responsible for errors and limitations of this document.

E. U. Essien-Udom

COMMISSION ON THE REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

The purpose of this commission is to examine critically the entire Constitution of the Union in the light of the experience of the last five years and to recommend such amendments as the commission deem necessary to bring the Constitution up to date. In other words, a general review to see whether it meets the expansive nature of the Union--distribution of officers and coordination.

I. PREAMBLE
Does the experience of the last five years or other developments since, warrant a re-statement of the major purposes of the Union?

II. NAME OF ORGANIZATION
Is the present name rather cumbersome?
Would a shorter name be more convenient?
Which of these names or others would be more suitable: Pan-African Student Union, Inc.? All-African Student Union, Inc.? The Organization of African Students?

III. Should national Unions or organizations be "federated" with the Union? What are the merits or demerits of such a relationship?

IV. MEMBERSHIP
Who should be an honorary member? Can a non-African be an honorary member? What of persons of African descent? Should not the chapter be primarily responsible for deciding this question? Should the National Secretariat not be allowed the discretion to determine admission to honorary membership to persons who apply directly? Does the requirement that honorary membership must be ratified by the Annual Conference have any merits? Should not rights and privileges of honorary membership be specified? Shall they be allowed to share in the privileges of the National Union? What limitations should be imposed?

V. LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY
In view of the experiences we have had so far in convening an Annual Conference, should the Annual Conference as presently constituted be the Highest Legislative Authority? What changes ought to be made?

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
The present Constitution does not recognize this organ of the Union. However, the laws of the United States recognize its existence. Provision must therefore be made in the Constitution for it. In its unconstitutional existence, it has performed functions of the Executive Committee which as constituted presently is unwieldy and difficult to convene. It seems therefore that the laws passed by this so-called Board of Directors has effect only to the extent that it is considered to be synonymous with the Executive Committee. It seems that the composition of the two bodies be critically examined and their functions delineated.

It is suggested that the Board of Directors assume the following functions as experience indicates it could properly handle:

(a) That the Board of Directors be the Highest Legislative Authority of the Union and that it should meet at least once every year.

(b) Its Composition should be as follows:

The elected officers (which should now constitute the Executive Committee)

Chapter presidents

Presidents of National or Territorial organizations or combinations of such organizations or their representatives

Any African student, who, in the opinion of the Board of Directors represents a reasonable portion of African student opinion but which cannot be represented through the aforesaid machinery. Such persons shall be elected by the Board by a two-thirds vote of its membership.

(b) That the Board of Directors may from time to time, as practical considerations allow, call a convention for such purposes as it deems fit. This convention may issue resolutions for the consideration of the Board but has no legislative powers. The convention may be attended by any African student willing and able to attend.

VI. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall consist of all the elected officers of the Union. Its primary function shall consist of the implementation of policies and legislation laid down by the Board of Directors.

It would retain all of its present powers or any that may be assigned to it either by this Conference or by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will automatically take over its functions described in 5(d)(e)(f) and (g) of the present Constitution.

VII. OFFICERS OF THE UNION

What old offices should be retained, or, readjusted?
What new offices should be created? for what functions?

VIII. DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS OF THE UNION

The President: Duties should be examined in the light of experience and facts...Can the President effectively hire and fire? Is the approval of the Executive Committee necessary for hiring and firing which is purely a managerial function? Or should the Executive Committee come into the picture if a fired employee brings his or her grievances to the attention of the Executive Committee? Who should hire and fire?

What practical use is there in the power of the President to sign vouchers, when the Executive Secretary in conjunction with the Treasurer is already vested with this power?

Vice-Presidents: Specific functions should be assigned to the offices of the Union. A vice-president may be charged with programs and coordination of Union programs. He may be charged with the duty of raising funds. Another may be charged with the duty of chapter organization and so forth.

Executive Secretary: Section (f) should be deleted as this particular disciplinary measure is applicable to all officers of the Union.

Add: He shall have the power to hire and fire employees of the national office.

The Treasurer: Amend (e): The Treasurer shall submit an annual report to the Conference (i.e., Board of Directors if the organizational principle is accepted).

The Director of Publications:
Add: The Executive Secretary shall be an ex-officio member of the Editorial Board and shall have a veto power on all matters which are inconsistent with the policies of the Union or the financial aspect of publications.

Advisory Council: The name should be changed to: Board of Advisers. Their functions should include assisting the Union in the raising of funds.

Legal Counsellor: The Constitution should take note of this office. It is imperative that at all times the Union should solicit the voluntary service of an attorney to advise it on all legal matters.

Funds: Annual Dues should be raised to $10.00 a year. Section (4) of Article XII of the Constitution should be deleted. It is punitive in its intent and without any practical use.

By-Laws: That the Conference draw up administrative regulations including a Code of Ethics to guide the activities of the principal officers of the Union.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS

I. Members shall have before them the Report of the Director of Publications together with relevant portions of chapter reports. It is also presumed that delegates have followed carefully the African Newsletter during the year and on the basis of their familiarity will be able to contribute to the discussion.

II. Should the Newsletter remain the same or can it be turned into an organ for serious topical discussions?

III. Should there be more news or more discussion?

IV. Should the Newsletter solicit articles from non-students

on topics which concern either student or African affairs?

V. What should be the relationship between editorial pronouncements and official Union policy?

VI. What powers, if any, should the Executive Secretary have regarding cost of the Newsletter? Is it not conceivable that an enthusiastic Director of Publications who wished to exercise his powers fully could turn out a magazine for which the Union cannot pay? Should there not be a veto power vested in the Executive Secretary and the Treasurer conjointly over the cost or expenses of the Newsletter? Is a constitutional amendment necessary to bring about a formal coordination?

VII. What responsibility do the officers of the Union have in publishing statements and messages concerning the workings of the Union?

VIII. Should an effort be made to widen the circulation of the Newsletter to the public? Is this financially feasible? Is it likely to bring in enough subscribers to pay for itself?

IX. What precisely are the functions of the Editorial Board? Should they meet and keep minutes of the discussion that goes on within it? Should the Director of Publications be required to transmit the minutes of such meetings to members of the Executive Committee or the Board of Directors?

X. Since the production of a good quality Newsletter requires much time and research, should the Director of Publications not be given an honorarium of $300.00 or $500.00 per annum? Should the office not directly pay for local and African newspapers and publications? Should not the Union develop a reasonably good library?

XI. How can students best help in supplying News? Should it be required that chapter send in a monthly report to the Secretariat for the "Secretariat News?" Should students representing individual countries send News-in-Brief concerning the most recent developments in their respective countries?

SUB-COMMITTEE ON CHAPTER ORGANIZATIONS

I. The Committee will examine reports of chapters, information on other African student organizations in the U.S. and will attempt to determine:

A. Their effectiveness.
B. Ways and means of intensifying chapter organization and their effectiveness.
C. The effect of a multiplicity of non-affiliated organizations on the effectiveness of the Union.

D. A definitive attitude of the Union toward such

organizations.

E. Ways and means of coordinating the activities of such organizations with those of AASUA.

II. What should be the relationship between the Union and African student organizations outside the United States? Can the Union co-sponsor a project or Conference with them, e.g., The Pan-African Student Conference in Kampala, Uganda?

40/80/42

SUB-COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC RELATIONS

To examine ways and means of improving our relations with the public. The commission may wish to consider the following points:

(1) The responsibility of African students as individuals. Although it is not the intention of the Union to regulate the private life of students, it is the responsibility of the Union to remind them of the adverse impact of any irresponsible behavior on American impressions of Africa. In a closed session of the committee, an intelligent discussion of some of the delicate aspects of student behavior in a number of areas would be fruitful.

(2) Individual students have a responsibility toward the public. Experience tends to show that African students are reluctant to accept invitations to American homes, or to talk to a group unless they are paid. It is in the interest of the Union and of Africa to cooperate as much as possible when such requests are made.

(3) Student politicians - Although the Union does not advocate political neutrality on matters affecting Africa, students should refrain from American politics as much as possible.

I. RESPONSIBILITY OF OFFICERS OF THE UNION

Union officers should as much as possible refrain from participation in any aspect of American politics or debates over its internal problems, except insofar as these may affect African students adversely. During the tenure of office, their representative role is exceedingly important in the eyes of the public.

Should officers associate the Union in events or occasions for which the Union is not formally invited?

Should officers of the Union transmit to the Secretariat for record copies of speeches or remarks they make before audiences in their representative capacity?

II. RESPONSIBILITY OF CHAPTERS

In what ways can chapters effectively improve our relations with American communities and thereby help to create a favorable opinion toward Africa?

What kind of programs are likely to bring Africans and Americans closer?

What kind of programs or activities may be jointly promoted by chapters and local groups? What are the conditions?

It is generally felt that whereas in some communities the incidence of friendly relations between white groups and Africans is very high, it is similarly conceded that relations with Afro-American groups is exceedingly poor. What can African students do to remedy this situation? What are some of the mutual stereotypes the two groups have toward each other? In what ways may chapters and the National Secretariat foster better relations through existing Afro-American organizations?

40/80/43

III. RELATIONS WITH NON-AFRICAN STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENT UNIONS
Should the relations remain informal? If not, under what conditions may the Union participate in their programs and activities?

IV. RELATIONS WITH AFRICA
How and in what manner can the Union make its purposes and activities widely known in Africa? Should an alumni group be formed by returning students? Should individual students start Pan-African adult and youth clubs in their respective countries? Should returning students seek opportunity to talk to university and high school students about the Union and help them form Pan-African student clubs on their campuses?

COMMISSION ON PAN-AFRICAN SOLIDARITY

I. A review of effective methods of making African students in North America more conscious of their common responsibilities to Africa.

II. To devise ways of effectively coordinating with African governments and African organizations in building up a confidence that will point the way to the unity of Africa. A period of agitation will be necessary for building up a sense of unity.

III. To suggest ways of reducing friction among the African "intelligentia" and also bringing them closer to the needs and aspirations of the masses of Africans.

IV. The Commission may wish:
(1) To explore viewpoints on the nature of Pan-African Unity and to develop a comprehensive view which is likely to guide Africans toward the realization of such unity.
(2) To study practical ways and means by which Africans are currently tackling this problem.

V. The Commission should continue beyond the Conference during which time its members should compile a stock of information about political, social, economic and cultural conditions as they now exist in Africa. Such a permanent commission may seek to associate itself with the informal machinery set-up by the Accra Conference at the United Nations in

order to learn of their work and to cooperate if the former is favorably disposed.

VI. The Commission may wish to draw up a bibliography on most recent work on Africa.

VII. It is presumed that the Commission is aware of the following:
(1) Pan-Africanism or Communism by George Padmore
(2) The Declarations and Resolutions on the Accra Conference, April, 1958
(3) The Tangier Conference, April 1958
(4) The Agitation for a Federation in French West Africa
(5) The Federation of Central Africa
(6) "Toward A Commonwealth of Africa" in the African Newsletter, December, 1957--January, 1958 also "An Addendum" in the February--March issue.
(7) The Sixth Pan-African Congress, scheduled for the latter part of this year.
(8) Pan-African Student Conference - Makerere College, University College of East Africa, July 1-7, 1958

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COMMISSION ON STUDENT NEEDS AND WELFARE

The purpose of this commission will consist of an exchange of views on the specific needs of African students in North America and how the Union or chapters may pool their resources for alleviating conditions inimical to their welfare.

It is hoped that the Commission will be able to reach conclusions which would provide more practical ways of student cooperation in solving some of their problems.

COMMISSION ON EDUCATION AND CULTURE

I. The main concern of this commission is twofold:
1) A critical examination of the relationship between education and culture. It is a well-known fact that those of us studying abroad have become subjected to cultural influences other than our own. This has resulted in some sort of tension which has led observers to consider us "marginal" men or the "uprooted." Are these claims true or flase? What factors are responsible for this? Is our education altogether the acquisition of techniques in a cultural vacuum? Is there a possible synthesis? Is there a remedy? If not, what must be done?
2) An examination of adequate ways in which we transmit educational and cultural information about America to Africans and vice versa.

II. The commission may review possible ways of distributing accurate data about educational opportunities here in the United States to African organizations and particularly to those areas in which they have no students in the U.S.

III. A review of ways of ensuring that AASUA is aware of arrivals from Africa.

June 4, 1958

Mr. Samuel W. Allen
49 Berkeley Place
Brooklyn 17, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Allen:

If you will arrange some time suitable to us, I will let you read your manuscript to me, while I make corrections. This is the only way to straighten it out.

Phone me some time, at MA 4 2929.

Very sincerely yours,

WEBDB:RR

42-3-38

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cable:
AMCOMMAF

American Committee on Africa

FOUR WEST FORTIETH STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y. • LA 4-9738

George M. Houser
Executive Director

September 24, 1958

Dear Friend:

The universal struggle for equality among men continues in Little Rock, Arkansas and in Pretoria, South Africa.

In the United States those fighting to gain equality are aided by legal decisions handed down by our federal courts. In South Africa, on the other hand, those seeking equality have no recourse to law since it is the government itself which has fostered and enforced an inhuman credo of segregation and humiliation upon 10 million non-whites.

But there are always those who protest, and in South Africa, 91 persons who did, now face charges of treason in a trial which began August 1st. If found guilty they could be hung. Erwin N. Griswold, Dean of Harvard Law School, and the only recognized American observer at the trial, wrote ACOA:

> "The ten million Africans, Indians and Coloreds -- out of a total population of less than 13 million -- are completely disfranchised for all practical purposes. Yet they are told that any steps they may take, without violence, to seek changes in the law are not only illegal, but are indeed, treason."

Our own problems of desegregation are immense, but Americans nonetheless have a great responsibility to face the problems of segregation in South Africa because of its adverse effect on the whole of the African continent and upon the world.

The American Committee on Africa has been one of the chief organizations actively helping the victims of the racist South African government policy. Through its South Africa Defense Fund ACOA has sent over $35,000 to aid the defendants and their families. The Committee's Declaration of Conscience -- a protest against segregation -- was launched in December, 1957, and called world attention to the tragedy of South Africa's racial practices. The Declaration was signed by such famed humanitarians as Trygve Lie, Bertrand Russell, Eleanor Roosevelt, Alan Paton and more than 100 other world leaders from more than 40 countries.

The struggle must continue against the forces of segregation; it cannot be lost in South Africa as it must not be lost here. Freedom and human dignity have in our time become costly things. Will you give as generously as you can so that we can continue with our Defense efforts and in other ways support our friends in South Africa? We hope you will join us by sending your contribution today.

Sincerely yours,

Donald Harrington

Donald Harrington

4/28/04

[AMERICAN FORUM FOR SOCIALIST EDUCATION]

A. J. Muste
Room 1601
1133 Broadway
New York 10, New York

March 11, 1958

The Editor
THE SATURDAY EVENING POST
Independence Square
Philadelphia 5, Pennsylvania

Dear Sir:

In its issue of March 8, 1958, the POST, for the second time in the course of a few months devotes substantial editorial space to the American Forum - For Socialist Education, and to myself. In this instance the editors go back to a Conference on "America's Future in the Age of Automation and Atomic Energy", held three months ago in New York. It is hard to see why American Forum with its very modest activities should merit so much space. One suspects, since the emphasis each time is on Communists taking some part, that it is because the editors think that the disorganized American Communist Party, reduced to a couple thousand members and bereft of influence in Labor or other groups, is still "a powerful monster endangering us all" to use Edgar Hoover's description.

You characterize American Forum as a "united-front alliance", which it very definitely is not. The old "united-fronts" were set up on the thesis that groups and individuals should "forget their differences and all work together for peace", or some such objective. The American Forum engages in no united action, and asserts that differences do have to be discussed, that any one who participates in the discussion must be prepared to have his views sharply challenged, and that no issues are barred from the discussion. For one government to have diplomatic exchanges with another is hardly the same as being allied with it.

No casual reader would gather from your editorials that I have a long record of opposition to united front action with the Communist Party or Communist infiltrated organizations. I am still opposed to such united action. May I remind you that the period during which I vigorously opposed Stalinism and warned against its dangers included the years of World War II, when this country was allied with the Soviet regime and the POST was among the organs of public opinion which hailed that alliance. Apparently you forgot this when, both in your caption, "But the Nazis and Their Heirs are Socialists Too", and in the editorial itself, you sought to identify Socialism "economically" with Nazism. No doubt members of the Socialist Party will write you on this point and I say nothing more about it here, other than to express regret that an organ of the standing of the SATURDAY EVENING POST should indulge in the practice of lumping together a number of highly varied tendencies and organizations in an "amalgam", which incidentally was a frequent practice of Stalin and Stalinists. This sort of thing hardly contributes to keeping the "national blood pressure" down, which you advocate in the lead editorial of this very March 8 issue.

42/59/80

Your recent editorial mentions only Communists, with the exception of myself and one other individual, as participants in the discussion last December or as present in the audience at an open public meeting to which any interested person was welcome, though the Communists constituted a very small minority of the several hundred people in attendance. In referring to a Communist Party member, you allude in nearly every case to the fact that he or she has been indicted or convicted of some Federal charge. You fail to mention that these indictments were under the Smith Act, that several provisions of that Act have been ruled unconstitutional by the U. S. Supreme Court, and that a good many leading American citizens known to be anti-Communists, including Deans of leading theological seminaries, Norman Thomas, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, whose article is featured in the same March 8 issue, as well as myself, are on record as appealing for amnesty for Communists indicted under the Smith Act, because they believe that Act is fundamentally un-American and because they believe in civil liberties also for those whose "doctrines they abhor". Surely this is an aspect of the situation which ought to be brought to the attention of your readers in such a context as that of this editorial. At the reception to which you refer, I was not "honored" as one in agreement with Communist doctrine, but precisely as one who, though disagreeing, defended their civil liberties and held that in the present period of ferment Communists should not, in advance, of the experiment in communication, be barred from untrammeled political discussion.

There were sincere friends of mine who were apprehensive that taking a couple of Communists in on the National Committee of the American Forum would help the Communist Party to rehabilitate itself. I have never been able to understand how engaging Communists in political discussion in which their views were subject to challenge, would possibly contribute to the promotion of totalitarian ideas, for example, or to anything except truth and faith in genuine democracy. The luncheon at which, as your informant pointed out, Russell Johnson and I ate with Steve Nelson - at Horn and Hardart's in non-privacy - made plans, as you also point out, for the schedule of an afternoon session. You do not mention that out of five panelists at that session, Steve Nelson was the only Communist Party member, a second was a leader of a Trotskyist party, the other three were outstanding libertarians and known dissenters from Communist philosophy.

Your readers are also entitled to know that the Communist Party members who during the past year have in greater or less degree supported American Forum's policy of untrammeled discussion on a non-exclusion basis, were those who fought for drastic changes in the Party line, that a number of people such as John Gates have left the C. P., as your editorial points out, and that those in the C. P. who were opposed to drastic change, never had any sympathy for or faith in the American Forum. It is a matter of public knowledge that the exponents of the latter tendency have recently taken over the leadership of the Communist Party, that their opponents have for the most part resigned from their Party posts or have been separated from them, and that members are still leaving the Communist Party. I surmise the American Forum has played a very minor part in these developments. It has tried to keep out of intra-party struggles of all kinds. It has certainly not been intent upon smashing or bolstering any party or group, but quite

42/69/81

simply intent upon involving all elements, regardless of affiliation or no affiliation, in discussion and in the painful effort to do some fresh thinking about the problems of democratic socialism. By no stretch of the imagination can any one argue now that the American Communist Party has been "rehabilitated" by the American Forum or anything else!

For the sake of the peace of the world, I believe that every effort to establish communication with peoples of the Communist world and the Communist movement ought to be made. On any showing, changes are taking place in that world, an immense ferment exists, now coming to the surface, now suppressed. Our hope is that this ferment will continue and progress be made toward genuine democratization. We must not be sentimentally optimistic in these matters but neither must we be tied up in our own rigidities. We must oppose American militarism as well as Russian. I fear that such an editorial as the one under discussion reflects a conviction that the conflict between the East and the West and their respective ideologies can only be resolved by war and that such a show down is inevitable. Therefore, Americans have to be kept in a state of alert emotionalism and fear. I hope that this is not the case. I am an advocate of the Gandhian non violent methods of resistance to evil about which Chester Bowles wrote in a recent issue of the SATURDAY EVENING POST.

Finally, however strenuously we wage the intellectual and moral struggle against all forms of totalitarianism, oppression and injustice, as a Christian I shall continue to regard human beings, regardless of their political or other views and affiliation s, as human beings and children of God, with whom I must persist in seeking to communicate in honesty and love.

A. J. Muste

AJM/rg

CA040 CGN PD 1 EXTRA=CHICAGO ILL 14 135PMC=

DR W E B DUBOIS=

DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL 2900 SOUTH PARKWAY=

WE WISH YOU ALL THE HAPPINESS AND JOY THAT YOU SO RICHLY DESERVE FOR HAVING DONE SO MUCH DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS FOR THE EDIFICATION OF MANKIND=

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF LIBERIE DR H J BOUYER PRES=

BY WESTERN UNION

R

for cultural relations with the Soviet Union

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HOLLAND ROBERTS, *President* ROSE ISAAK, *Secretary*

August 1, 1958

84/45/24

Dear Friends:

Peace and war are in the scales -

Your hand can tip the balance.

The Soviet people are speaking out for peace and all the world is listening. They have given us deeds to back their words. They have stopped the atomic tests.

Now all the world is looking to us. The Supreme Soviet has appealed to our Congress but they expect our people to answer.

We need your help to get the enclosed facts to our people and speed the day when we agree to end the tests.

Every good wish

Holland Roberts

Holland Roberts

HR:ri
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Enclosures

27th Anniversary Year

100

American Society of African Culture

15 EAST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK 16, N.Y. • OREGON 9-9255

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Assistant Executive Director

Cable Address:
CORACIWA, NEW YORK

42/5A/36

July 7, 1958

Dear Dr. Du Bois:

Several days ago you returned to us a signed Agreement concerning our use of your manuscript entitled "Liberia, The League and The United States." This particular form of Agreement was sent to you in error. For this, please accept our apology.

Enclosed is the Agreement intended for you. Would you be good enough to sign and return it to us at your earliest convenience so that we may send your check to you? Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

James T. Harris Jr.

James T. Harris, Jr.
Ass't Executive Director

Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois
31 Grace Court
Brooklyn 1, N. Y.

JTH:cc
Enc (1)

42-54-150

April 4, 1958

Dear Dr. Du Bois and Shirley,

My song was finally published in our school newspaper, "Highlights". It is on Page 4.

How have you been feeling? Mom and dad are fine.

All my Love,

Bettina

Affleck